

THE JERUSALEM POST

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A READING of the full text of the Press conference held by Secretary of State Dulles on Tuesday throws some words interesting light on the U.S. attitude towards the "assumptions" made by Mrs. Golda Meir in her speech to the U.N. General Assembly on March 2.

Thus on the question of the claim by Egypt to belligerent rights, Mr. Dulles made the following statement: "We believe that under the Armistice Agreements there is not a right to exercise belligerent rights." Instantly the Security Council decision of 1951 on Israel's right to pass shipping through the Suez Canal, Mr. Dulles went on to say: "The basis for that decision was that under the Armistice Agreement Egypt did not possess belligerent rights. We voted for that resolution at the time, and we adhere to the view which was then held."

On the position of the UNEF in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Dulles, in his own words, was unable to put the matter positively. He would not go beyond saying that the U.N. must first obtain the consent of a country to enter its territory.

Now, once the consent has been given, then I think a good argument can be made that the consent cannot be arbitrarily withdrawn, frustrating the original purpose, because other people change their positions in reliance on the original consent, forces of inertia, a chain of events has occurred. And we would question, certainly, whether Egypt has the right arbitrarily to alter and change a consent once given until the purpose of that consent has been accomplished.

Questioned whether the U.S. intended to attempt to establish the principle of free and innocent passage through the Gulf of Akaba, and when it would do so, Mr. Dulles answered: "It is our intention to do that. I think that it is a fact that a certain amount of shipping is, or shortly will be, in fact passing through the Straits of Tiran. I think that it is important to get a decision by the International Court of Justice as to what the legal rights of the parties are. We feel that the preponderance of legal authority is so strongly in favour of the right of passage that we feel that we are entitled to insist upon the right of passage unless and until there is a contrary decision by the World Court."

The result of the conference is therefore that in a somewhat more definite manner than has heretofore been the case the U.S. Secretary of State has acknowledged the right of Israel's shipping to pass through Suez and the Straits of Tiran; he has indicated that the UNEF should stay in the Gaza Strip under the original assumptions of its duties and that Egypt has no claim to exercise belligerent rights. But there is no hint anywhere that anything will be done to help Israel implement her rights. As far as the Suez Canal is concerned, the view is current in diplomatic circles that the U.S. is alarmed at rumours that Israel intends sending a test ship through Suez. Mr. Dulles has the virtual withdrawal from the most vital parts of the Gaza Strip by the UNEF force produced any reaction to back the opinion expressed by Mr. Dulles on Tuesday. Insofar as the Straits are concerned the statement that Israel has the right to passage is closely welded to the idea of seeking an opinion from The Hague Court whether such passage is justified. This must be intended to press to Egypt that her interests are being cherished by the U.S. It would also give Nasser, in advance, a face-saving device. For should the Court rule in favour of such passage he could perhaps be persuaded to allow himself to be represented by a loyal U.N. member who bowed to the dictate of proven international law.

But it is just in this pussy-footing attitude that the whole weakness of the U.S. position is revealed. While only principles are discussed, and are always stated with the most concern for Egyptian susceptibilities, Nasser is left in effect quite free to manipulate the legalizing Mr. Hammarskjold and thus use the U.N. to protect his illegal position. In such a situation tension is bound to mount and the threat of an ultimate explosion has not been ended.

EGYPT BUYS GERMAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITS
The Egyptian Government has decided to purchase all exhibits in the German section of the industrial exhibition now taking place in Cairo. Al Agha has reported.

The exhibits are valued at LE450,000, part of which will be paid in Egyptian agricultural products and part in German marks.

Unrest in Nationalist Party

Caucus Leader Defects from Strijdom Camp

By George Clay

CAPE TOWN (OPNS).—THE South African Nationalist Party has developed into such a monolithic structure that the defection of a single top-rank member is capable of shaking it to its foundations. Thus, the Government, which has been riding the crest of the political wave for eight years, has been acutely embarrassed by the resignation of the Nationalist Party leader in the Transvaal Provincial Council, Dr. Theo Wessenaar, in protest against the Government's "extremism."

Dr. Wessenaar is not only highly placed in the councils of the party, but has always been regarded as one of its most extreme Nationalists. His resignation from the leadership has therefore caused much concern among the Nationalists, and speculation about the possibility of a split in the party. So far, however, there is no indication that the Wessenaar affair is anything more than a one-man revolt arising out of personal disappointments and jealousy, but conveniently tied to a popular political issue.

Education Pretext
Dr. Wessenaar ostensibly resigned his position because of a dispute with the party leadership over whether English-speaking parents should be conceded the opportunity, though outnumbered by Afrikaans-speaking parents on school boards. He told the Press he had advocated the appointment of two English-speaking representatives on 12-member boards, but no such people had been elected, but this had been vetoed by his colleagues and they had been upheld by the Prime Minister, Mr. J. G. Strijdom. Mr. Wessenaar said that only one English-speaking person should be appointed, and then only if he was "well disposed" to the Government.

In public statements Dr. Wessenaar deplored the fact that Mr. Strijdom was being "held prisoner by extreme elements." Although Dr. Wessenaar has seized on a "white unity" issue, which at present is the foremost of white politics in South Africa, there are strong suggestions that he has been motivated by personal considerations.

Passed Over
When Mr. Strijdom came to power Dr. Wessenaar was passed over, and one of his Provincial Council colleagues, Mr. Jan de Klerk, Mr. Strijdom's brother-in-law, was appointed to the Cabinet. Dr. Wessenaar was also disappointed when he failed to secure the plum job of Administrator after having an unsuccessful candidate for the senatorship when Mr. Strijdom carried out his Senate-packing manoeuvre.

In the circumstances, it is most doubtful whether Dr. Wessenaar's resignation is a large following among the Nationalists, for whom a breach with the party holds the threat of excommunication from the fiercely clan-like "Afrikaner" nation. Nor is he, on his record, likely to attract many non-Nationalists although there is a fringe of dissident members on the edges of both the Nationalist and United parties who might rally round him. He has announced that he has

no intention of forming a new party or of forsaking Nationalist principles. Therefore, even if his defection led to some realignment, it would make little difference to the all-important sphere of black-white relationships.

The Wessenaar affair is important, however, in the light of previous grumblings about the Government which have been coming from various quarters in the Nationalist party in recent years. It comes on top of the deviation of some Afrikaaner clergymen from the Government's apartheid line, criticism by 13 Afrikaaner professors of the Government's Senate-packing Act, and warnings by top Nationalist leaders about the growth of "dangerous liberalism" and "insidious internationalism" in the party.

Republic's Future
His resignation has also revived argument about whether the republic of the future should remain in the Commonwealth. He said it should but his successor as provincial leader, Mr. F.H. Odendaal, said it should not. One of the usually well-disciplined Nationalist newspapers, the "Vaderland," has come out in support of Dr. Wessenaar. In a trenchant

editorial criticism of Mr. Odendaal, it said: "Where will South Africa seek friends if she throws the Commonwealth out with the bathwater? There was, of course, a time when many people had great expectations of Germany. But Hitler is dead. Mr. Odendaal, 'Vaderland' also said: 'There are many people who, not so long ago, counted Dr. Wessenaar among the extremists. If the Nationalist Party in the Provincial Council is today becoming too extremist for him then the alarm is sounding loudly and stridently.'

Writing on Wall
Dr. Wessenaar has been expelled from the provincial caucus but not yet from the party. He plans to hold meetings to explain his position. These meetings may give a clue as to whether in fact the caucus is facing anything like its Waterloo or whether the incident can be written off as an inevitable headache of a party with too few jobs for too many people. In the meantime, the situation has been well summed up by an Opposition Member of Parliament who said of the Wessenaar affair: "I am writing on the wall but unfortunately I cannot read it yet."

S. Africa Hauls Down Union Jack
After more than a century and a half the Union Jack is being expelled from South Africa — and "God Save the Queen" is also on the way out. The necessary legislation to establish the 35-year-old "Union Flag" as the only official flag has been passed by the House of Assembly, and is now in the Senate.

Curiously, this historic move finally to do away with the Union Jack in South Africa was not initiated by the Nationalist Government. It was started by a resident of independent M.F., apparently in an attempt to embarrass his former colleagues in a party from which he was expelled, and was seized on by the Government as a few newspaper editorials.

But although the M.F., Mr. Arthur Barlow, an English-speaking man, and although editorials supporting his proposal appeared in some English-language newspapers, the abolition of the Union Jack will leave a bitter taste in the mouths of many South Africans of British descent.

Even among those English-speaking South Africans whose sentimental links with Britain are slender, the manner of the change will probably be resented as a statement of proportion to the group's emotions about the merit of the change.

Juniors Given Vocational Training
By Aryeh Rubinstein
10 more the following year, and 40 more last year. There are now over 3,000 seventh and eighth graders getting pre-vocational training, and the number is rising over the 20 new workshops scheduled to be added this year. Immigrant settlements will be given preference.

At Beit Shimon we saw 15 girls working the foot treadles of locally-made spinning machines and operating the more complicated Dymal Leicester weaving machines. The charming teacher, all of 17 and a WIZO school graduate, was difficult to spot among her pupils.

Metal Shop
Albert and his fellow pupils were working in the adjoining boys' metal workshop. Fortunately for Albert, his teacher and he both know English. The problem was how to prepare them to advance in their jobs and become skilled workers.

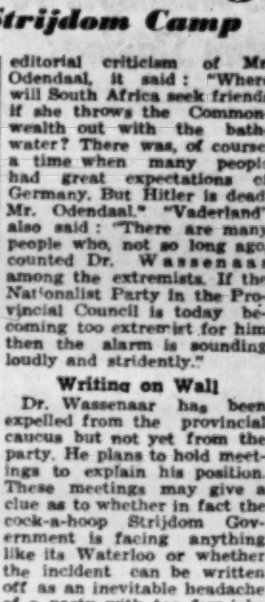
The officials came up with a plan: pre-vocational education in the last two years of elementary school for those pupils that wished it. A parallel pre-agricultural education programme was devised at the same time.

Mr. Moshe Peled, who is in charge of the pre-vocational training programme, feels that it has already proved its worth.

Seven school workshops were opened three years ago, pupil being estimated at IL-135 as compared with a figure between IL-600-IL-700 in vocational high schools. In the pre-agricultural classes, the extra cost is between IL-150-IL-200 a year, as against IL-1,500-IL-2,000 in residential agricultural schools.

After visiting the modern David Remez school in Rishon le-Zion we wished we could have gone to a school like that. Although here too there are pre-vocational classes, the well-equipped wood-working shop with its hand-saw and electric lathe could hold its own with similar workshops in the U.S.—the emphasis here is on agricultural training.

DAG HASN'T FINISHED YET...



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Readers' Letters

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I was greatly astonished to read the letter in your issue of March 4, protesting against the diversion of vacation allowances to a fund for the unemployed.

It is unbelievable that those very workers who have regular employment and who are enjoying the benefits achieved for them by the Histadrut in its long battle for the improvement of work conditions — sick leave, annual leave, pension, payment for Holy Days, vacation allowances, etc. — are now asked to overlook the situation of their fellow citizens who are unemployed and who have absolutely nothing. Is there any worker who can enjoy his food at a time when unemployed workers and their families do not have bread?

And please let us not say that other means should be found to help the unemployed. Who will find these

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2. It is true that a premature baby girl was born at this hospital some weeks ago who weighed 900 gr. at birth. Her present weight is over 1,500 grs. Our pediatrician has, however, not yet stated what her chances of survival are.

Yours, etc.
DR. E. E. LEHMANN
Director,
Hayim Yassky Hadassah
Neger Hospital

MERON BLEMISH
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — The Bnei Akiva Yeshiva has put up a wooden shack by the ancient synagogue of R. Shimon bar Yo'hai in Meron, one of the world-famous sites of Jewish history. Fined IL20 by the magistrate and ordered to take the shack down as a result of a suit brought by the Antiquities Department, the Yeshiva's management has been procrastinating execution of the judgment.

As Passah, the hiking season and the annual Meron pilgrimage draw near, it is high time that it was pointed out to the management that the shack lends neither beauty nor respect to the ancient historic site.

Yours, etc.
YESHAYAHU ASHNI
Safad, March 18.

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Today's contributors include R. H. Amsterdam and R. B. Zuckerman.

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SONOL CHIEF

By Ya'acov Ardon

PETROLEUM is a fateful and fascinating fluid in the modern world and for the oil-conscious public of Israel a man who grew up in this industry like Mr. Gustave Schindler is a mine, or a well, of solid information and considerable opinions. The 47-year-old director and partner of the 50-year-old oil firm of L. Sonneborn & Sons, New York, who is Vice-President of Sonneborn Associates Petroleum Corporation, has come to Israel to look over the Sonol property, until recently Mobil better known under its maiden name of Socony Vacuum.

Socony found simultaneous Middle East business on both sides of the Armistice lines "embarrassing" and offered the Sonneborn Company its Israel assets for sale — lock, stock and oil barrels — and the deal was struck. The price Sonneborn paid has not been disclosed, but it was paid in dollars and the buyer is entitled to withdraw a certain amount of his profits every year under the provisions of the foreign investment legislation. Sonneborn set up the separate Sonneborn Associates Petroleum Company to control its Is.

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